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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 EASTERN COUNTY OF NEW YORK

3 MIRIAM ABER,

4 Plaintiff,

5  
6 - against - Docket No. 09-CV-490 (ILG/RLM)  
7

8 AMERICAN SECURITY INSURANCE  
9 COMPANY,

10 Defendant.  
11

12 - - - - - X  
13 August 27, 2009  
14  
15 10:09 a.m.  
16  
17

18 Deposition of BERNARD SANTANGELO, taken by  
19 Plaintiff, pursuant to subpoena, at the offices of  
20 Abraham, Lerner, and Arnold, 292 Madison Avenue, 22nd  
21 Floor, New York before TONIANN MCCULLOUGH, a  
22 Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public within and  
23 for the State of New York.

24  
25 **CONDENSED**

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Page 4

## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 ABRAHAM, LERNER, AND ARNOLD  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
 292 Madison Avenue  
 New York, New York 10017  
 BY: JOHNATHAN LERNER, ESQUIRE

7 LAVIN, O'NEIL, RICCI, CEDRONE & DISPIRIO  
 Attorneys for Defendant  
 8 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2900  
 New York, New York 10170  
 9 BY: FRANCIS F. QUINN, ESQUIRE

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1 BERNARD SANTANGELO, after  
 2 having been duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
 3 follows:  
 4 EXAMINATION BY MR. LERNER:  
 5 Q. State your name for the record, please.  
 6 A. Bernard Santangelo.  
 7 Q. What is your current business address?  
 8 A. 5600 First Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.  
 9 Q. Good morning, Fire Marshal Santangelo. My  
 10 name is Johnathan Lerner. I'm an attorney with the law  
 11 firm of Abraham, Lerner, and Arnold, and we represent  
 12 Miriam Aber in connection with a lawsuit that she has  
 13 commenced against the American Security Insurance  
 14 Company for damages sustained to the premises located at  
 15 1037 - 42nd Street, Brooklyn, New York as a result of a  
 16 fire that took place back on November 6th of 2006.  
 17 I'm going to be asking you some questions today  
 18 about your involvement, if any, in connection with the  
 19 investigation by the New York City Fire Department with  
 20 respect to this particular fire.  
 21 And are you appearing here today pursuant to a  
 22 subpoena?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 (Document marked Santangelo-1 for  
 25 identification.)

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IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between the  
 respective parties hereto, that:

All rights provided by the C.P.L.R., and Part 221  
 of the Uniform Rules for the Conduct of Depositions,  
 including the right to object to any question, except as  
 to form, or to move to strike any testimony at this  
 examination is reserved; and in addition, the failure to  
 object to any question or to move to strike any  
 testimony at this examination shall not be a bar or  
 waiver to make such motion at, and is reserved to the  
 trial of this action.

This deposition may be sworn to by the witness  
 being examined before a Notary Public other than the  
 Notary Public before whom this examination was begun,  
 but the failure to do so or to return the original of  
 this deposition to counsel, shall not be deemed a waiver  
 of the rights provided by Rule 3116 of the C.P.L.R., and  
 shall be controlled thereby.

The filing of the original of this deposition is  
 waived.

B. Santangelo  
 BY MR. LERNER:  
 Q. I'm going to show you a copy of what I've  
 marked as Santangelo Exhibit-1 for identification and  
 I'll just ask you to take a look at that, please.  
 A. Yes, that is what I received.  
 Q. Is the document that I put in front of you as  
 Santangelo Exhibit-1 the subpoena that was served upon  
 you?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. Is that the document pursuant to which you  
 are appearing here today for your deposition?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. And I understand that the original date was  
 last Wednesday, so we rescheduled your deposition for  
 today, correct?  
 A. That's correct.  
 Q. As part of the subpoena that was served, it  
 did request that you produce documents, a copy of your  
 file with respect to the investigation, if any, that you  
 conducted. Did you bring any documents with you today?  
 A. I brought the documents that were mentioned  
 in the subpoena and I know I faxed it to you but I made  
 them send me with it to deliver it.  
 Q. And this would be a fire incident report from

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 the Bureau of Fire Investigation in connection with the  
 3 fire at the 1037 - 42nd Street premises?  
 4                   A. In 2006, yes.  
 5                   Q. And do you have any other documents with you  
 6 today in connection with this investigation?  
 7                   A. No, this is it.  
 8                   MR. LERNER: We are going to go ahead and  
 9 mark this document as Santangelo-2  
 10                  (Document marked Santangelo-2 for  
 11 identification.)  
 12 BY MR. LERNER:  
 13                  Q. I'm going to hand you a copy of the document  
 14 we have marked as Santangelo-2 so that we can have you  
 15 identify it. Have you had the opportunity to review  
 16 this document?  
 17                  A. Yes.  
 18                  Q. And do you recognize what has been marked as  
 19 Santangelo-2?  
 20                  A. Santangelo-2 is the copy of the fire report  
 21 pertaining to 1037 - 42nd Street, November 6, 2006. It  
 22 is a certified report.  
 23                  Q. Is that report a report that is prepared  
 24 specifically by the Bureau of Fire Investigations?  
 25                  A. That's correct.

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2                   MR. LERNER: Let's mark this as Santangelo-3.  
 3                   (Document marked Santangelo-3  
 4 for identification.)  
 5                   Q. Fire Marshal Santangelo, I'm going to hand  
 6 you a copy of what I've marked as Santangelo-3 for  
 7 identification and I'll ask you to take a look at that,  
 8 please.  
 9                   Okay. Have you had the opportunity to review  
 10 what has been marked as Santangelo-3 for identification?  
 11                  A. Yes.  
 12                  Q. Do you recognize that document?  
 13                  A. Yes.  
 14                  Q. What is Santangelo-3?  
 15                  A. It is a report, an incident report, referring  
 16 to 1037 - 42nd Street. And it indicates what the fire  
 17 companies did at the scene.  
 18                  Q. And would that be the report that you had  
 19 referenced in your earlier testimony that would set  
 20 forth the activities of the responding fire fighters?  
 21                  A. Yes.  
 22                  Q. In addition to an incident report and a fire  
 23 marshal's report, are there any other reports that would  
 24 be generated by the fire department in connection with a  
 25 fire?

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2                  Q. And in addition to the report that in this  
 3 particular situation was prepared by the Bureau of Fire  
 4 Investigations, will a fire to a premises within the  
 5 City of New York also result in the creation or  
 6 generation of additional reports from the fire  
 7 department?  
 8                  A. I don't understand what you are driving at.  
 9                  Q. Is this the only report that would be created  
 10 when there is a fire to a premises located within the  
 11 City of New York?  
 12                  A. No.  
 13                  Q. Are there other reports that are sometimes  
 14 generated as well?  
 15                  A. Yes.  
 16                  Q. And what other reports do we see on fire  
 17 losses or fires to premises in New York City other than  
 18 the report that we have marked as Santangelo-2?  
 19                  A. There would be a fire report that is put out  
 20 -- this is the fire marshal's report -- there is a fire  
 21 report that indicates what the fire companies actually  
 22 did at the scene.  
 23                  Q. That would be an incident report?  
 24                  A. Yes. It could be an incident report. The  
 25 name just...

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2                  A. I'm not sure because I usually don't get  
 3 involved in that end. But this seems to be the two  
 4 reports that we would get.  
 5                  Q. Does the battalion chief ever prepare his own  
 6 report?  
 7                  A. That I believe would be on here.  
 8                  Q. As part of the incident report?  
 9                  A. Yes.  
 10                 Q. Am I also correct that the report that we  
 11 marked as Santangelo-2 is the only report that will be  
 12 created in the event that an investigation of a fire is  
 13 handled by the Bureau of Fire Marshals?  
 14                 A. That's correct.  
 15                 Q. In this particular instance, the fact that we  
 16 have such a report would lead us to the conclusion that  
 17 there was a fire marshal investigation into this  
 18 particular fire.  
 19                 A. Yes.  
 20                 Q. Before we get into that report and your  
 21 involvement, I just want to, if I may. Go through your  
 22 background with you. Are you currently employed by the  
 23 New York City Fire Department?  
 24                 A. Yes.  
 25                 Q. And for how long have you been employed by

<p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 the fire department?</p> <p>3 A. Thirty-two years.</p> <p>4 Q. And what is your current position?</p> <p>5 A. I'm a supervising fire marshal.</p> <p>6 Q. And for how long have you held that title?</p> <p>7 A. Since 2002.</p> <p>8 Q. And briefly can you just describe for me</p> <p>9 duties and responsibilities as a Supervising Fire</p> <p>10 Marshal for the City of New York?</p> <p>11 A. At the present time I'm the executive officer</p> <p>12 of City Wide South, City Wide Command South, which is</p> <p>13 located in Brooklyn. And I work administratively.</p> <p>14 Pretty much when a commanding officer is not there, then</p> <p>15 I have the helms. Right now, I handle the supervisors.</p> <p>16 I handle, you know, any problems that come up with them</p> <p>17 being included in certain investigations if the</p> <p>18 commanding officer is not there.</p> <p>19 Q. So am I correct that your only current</p> <p>20 investigatory role would be in the event of the absence</p> <p>21 of another supervising fire marshal?</p> <p>22 A. No. If a case becomes a big case we will be</p> <p>23 included in it because I've handled major cases before</p> <p>24 with the U.S. government. They will sometimes run them</p> <p>25 with me and I will just advise them.</p>	<p>Page 10</p> <p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 as a fire marshal for the New York City Fire Department?</p> <p>3 A. To investigate the origin and cause of fires.</p> <p>4 Q. And as fire marshal for the City of New York,</p> <p>5 did you work within any particular geographical</p> <p>6 location?</p> <p>7 A. The ones previously mentioned.</p> <p>8 Q. So am I correct then that since your</p> <p>9 investigation -- withdrawn.</p> <p>10 Am I correct then that since you have been in the</p> <p>11 roll of fire marshal and the continuing role of</p> <p>12 supervising fire marshal your area of investigation has</p> <p>13 included Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Lower Manhattan?</p> <p>14 A. Except from 1997 to 2005.</p> <p>15 Q. And what was the exception within that time</p> <p>16 period?</p> <p>17 A. I was assigned to the New York City Joint</p> <p>18 Arson Task Force which was with Alcohol, Tobacco, and</p> <p>19 Firearms. I was detailed to that for five years or so.</p> <p>20 Q. Was that a full-time detail?</p> <p>21 A. Full-time detail.</p> <p>22 Q. So while in the position of executive officer</p> <p>23 I would say from 2002 to 2005, your actual detail during</p> <p>24 that time period was with the New York City Joint Arson</p> <p>25 Task Force?</p>
<p>Page 11</p> <p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 Q. And you indicated those would only be in</p> <p>3 connection with big cases?</p> <p>4 A. You know, cases that anybody had a question</p> <p>5 on, long-term cases.</p> <p>6 Q. And when you say you're the executive</p> <p>7 officer for City Wide Command South, what geographic</p> <p>8 part of the City does that cover?</p> <p>9 A. We cover Brooklyn, Staten Island, Lower</p> <p>10 Manhattan from 110th Street down.</p> <p>11 Q. And for how long have you held the executive</p> <p>12 officer title?</p> <p>13 A. 2005.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. So prior to the fire that brings us</p> <p>15 here today, correct?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And before you were promoted to the role of</p> <p>18 supervising fire marshal in 2002, what was your title at</p> <p>19 the fire department?</p> <p>20 A. It was a fire marshal.</p> <p>21 Q. And for how long did you serve as a fire</p> <p>22 marshal?</p> <p>23 A. From 1986 to 2002.</p> <p>24 Q. And generally, again, if you could, could you</p> <p>25 just tell me what your duties and responsibilities were</p>	<p>Page 13</p> <p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 A. From 1997 I was a fire marshal. I worked</p> <p>3 with Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms till 2005. In 2002,</p> <p>4 I was still there, I was promoted to supervisor but I</p> <p>5 was involved in the Williamsburg case. Therefore, I</p> <p>6 wasn't back in a Brooklyn until 2005 and at that time I</p> <p>7 was made the executive officer.</p> <p>8 Q. So even though during the time period 1997</p> <p>9 to 2005 you were employed by the fire department, your</p> <p>10 actual detail was with the New York City Arson Task</p> <p>11 Force?</p> <p>12 A. That's correct.</p> <p>13 Q. And that was together with the ATA, you said?</p> <p>14 A. No. It was with Alcohol, Tobacco, and</p> <p>15 Firearms. NYPD Arson and Explosion and I was deputized</p> <p>16 a United States Marshal.</p> <p>17 Q. And when did that take place?</p> <p>18 A. In '97. I'm still deputized today.</p> <p>19 Q. Prior to becoming a fire marshal in 1986,</p> <p>20 what was your role in the fire department?</p> <p>21 A. Prior to '86, I was a firefighter.</p> <p>22 Q. For how long did you serve as a firefighter?</p> <p>23 A. From 1977 to 1986, nine years.</p> <p>24 Q. And what was your rank in or about 1986 when</p> <p>25 you left your role as a firefighter to become a fire</p>

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## B. Santangelo

## B. Santangelo

1                   2 the programs that they run out of the Montauk Falls  
 3                   3 Academy?

4                   4 A. No.

5                   5 Q. Have you ever taught at the Montauk Falls  
 6                   6 Academy?

7                   7 A. No. I taught in our academy.

8                   8 Q. So there was a thirteen-week training program  
 9                   9 and then one year basically as an apprentice with a  
 10                  10 supervising fire marshal?

11                  11 A. No. With a seasoned fire marshal.

12                  12 Q. Any additional training after that?

13                  13 A. I had a lot of schooling after that.

14                  14 Q. Through the fire department? Through  
 15                  15 internal?

16                  16 A. Fire police.

17                  17 Q. FBI?

18                  18 A. Not FBI, but ATF.

19                  19 Q. And with respect to the teaching that you've  
 20                  20 done, can you just give me a little general background  
 21                  21 as to the courses that you have taught in the area of  
 22                  22 cause and origin investigations?

23                  23 A. Well, I taught at the fire department -- not  
 24                  24 fire academy, but our training, which is located now at  
 25                  25 Hooper Street in Brooklyn, but I taught a couple of

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## B. Santangelo

## B. Santangelo

1                   2 A. Kingsborough Community College.

3                   3 Q. And what year did you obtain that?

4                   4 A. That was way back. I'm going to say 1975,  
 5 and it's only an approximate date.

6                   6 Q. That's fine. Since you brought it up a  
 7 little while ago, do you have specialized training in  
 8 the area of cause and origin investigation?

9                   9 A. As a fire marshal everyone does.

10                  10 Q. Can you give me a brief background of your  
 11 training in the investigation of cause and origin of  
 12 fires?

13                  13 A. After promotion the fire marshal goes through  
 14 when I did it I think it was thirteen weeks of  
 15 specialized training and then you work a year with a  
 16 seasoned fire marshal.

17                  17 Q. Is the thirteen weeks a course that would be  
 18 given at the fire marshal academy in Montauk Falls?

19                  19 A. No.

20                  20 Q. Where was the training for that thirteen-week  
 21 period?

22                  22 A. When I did it, it was at the fire academy.

23                  23 Q. Where is that located?

24                  24 A. Randall's Island.

25                  25 Q. Have you ever taken any course work or any of

1 classes on proper rest procedures, gave them classes on

2 the federal system because that's what I have been  
 3 working on, the federal system.

4                   5 Q. Over the course of your years as a fire  
 5 marshal, approximately how many fires were you  
 6 responsible for the investigation of?

7                   8 A. I just have to say I really don't remember.  
 8 That almost sounds like when I get qualified as an  
 9 expert in court. I just loss track after all these  
 10 years. I am afraid to say a number because when I got  
 11 on it was very, very busy at that time.

12                  13 Q. The Bronx was burning.

13                  14 A. I never did the Bronx. It was -- I really  
 14 couldn't remember a number that's how far back it's  
 15 been.

16                  17 Q. Was it over a thousand?

17                  18 A. I would say it is but I couldn't give you an  
 18 accurate number.

19                  19 Q. And do you currently hold any certifications  
 20 in the field of fire investigation cause and origin?

20                  22 A. I'm a fire investigator 1 and 2.

21                  23 Q. If you can tell me, what does that mean?

22                  24 A. Well, I'm a New York State Certified Fire  
 23 Investigator and what you do is you obtain that by the

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B. Santangelo

1 time and job, the amount of fires that you investigate  
 2 and the state certifies you.

3 Q. So there is no specific course that you need  
 4 to obtain that certification, it was just straight from  
 5 the number of fires you investigated?

6 A. Pretty much so, yes, because I was already  
 7 trained as a fire marshal.

8 Q. Are you familiar with the NFPA 921 manual?  
 9 A. I know it, yes.

10 Q. And do you find the NFPA 921 manual to be  
 11 authoritative?

12 A. No. The 921 manual is only a reference  
 13 manual to us such as other reference manual books. I do  
 14 not even use it.

15 Q. Do you ever have occasion to refer to the  
 16 NFPA921 manual?

17 A. I usually refer to KIRK at the time, not 921.

18 Q. Are you a member of any professional  
 19 societies?

20 A. I was a member of the International Society  
 21 of Arson Investigators.

22 Q. From what period of time to what period of  
 23 time?

24 A. I think I quit last year. After 30 years, I

B. Santangelo

1 Q. And what was the nature of that particular  
 2 action, the one in federal court?

3 A. The case was United States versus Nat  
 4 Schlesinger.

5 MR. LERNER: Off the record.  
 6 (Off the record.)

7 BY MR. LERNER:

8 Q. Fire Marshal Santangelo, I'd like to talk to  
 9 you a little bit about the fire that brings us here  
 10 today. Understanding your role in the fire department  
 11 and understanding your background a little bit, am I  
 12 correct that you were not the investigating fire marshal  
 13 to the fire to the 1037 - 42nd Street, Brooklyn, New  
 14 York premises back on November 6th of 2006?

15 A. That is correct, I was not.

16 Q. And who was the investigating fire marshal?

17 A. Michael Farrel, F-a-r-r-e-l.

18 Q. And are you familiar with Fire Marshal  
 19 Farrel?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And is this Fire Marshal Farrel one of the  
 22 fire marshals that you currently supervise?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Back in November of 2006 was Fire Marshal

Page 19

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B. Santangelo

1 said that's it.

B. Santangelo

2 Farrel one of the fire marshals that you were  
 3 supervising?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you ever had any supervisory  
 6 responsibility over Fire Marshal Michael Farrel?

7 A. Yes, I made a mistake. He was in my squad  
 8 for a while.

9 Q. And when was that?

10 A. It had to be about 2005 because it was about  
 11 six months I was in the field before I went upstairs.

12 Q. But at the time of this fire, am I correct  
 13 you were not his supervisor?

14 A. No. No.

15 Q. Did you have any involvement in the  
 16 investigation of the November 6, 2006 fire to the 1037 -  
 17 42nd Street premises?

18 A. At that time?

19 Q. At any time.

20 A. No, to that time. But I was asked to look  
 21 into fires, I think it was the end of last year.

22 Q. Have you, yourself, ever been to the 1037 -  
 23 42nd Street premises?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And when was the first time that you went?

<p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 A. I believe it to be in December of '08.</p> <p>3 Q. And can you just describe to me what the</p> <p>4 premises looked like when you observed them in December</p> <p>5 of 2008?</p> <p>6 A. They were -- they were -- they were -- well,</p> <p>7 in 2008, there was another fire.</p> <p>8 Q. I understand.</p> <p>9 A. So it was like semi-boarded, falling. There</p> <p>10 were two buildings next to each other.</p> <p>11 Q. Was 1037 attached to another building?</p> <p>12 A. No, they were individual buildings separate.</p> <p>13 I think I have some photos.</p> <p>14 Q. The second fire that you just referenced</p> <p>15 previously to the 1037 - 42nd Street premises, do you</p> <p>16 know what the date of that fire was?</p> <p>17 A. Off the top of my head -- oh, yeah. Hold it.</p> <p>18 Hold it -- it was November of '08.</p> <p>19 Q. November of '08?</p> <p>20 A. Yes. November 26th of '08.</p> <p>21 Q. And am I correct that you had not been not in</p> <p>22 the 1037 premises at any time after the initial fire of</p> <p>23 '06 and before the second fire of '08?</p> <p>24 A. That is correct, I had never been there.</p> <p>25 Q. And am I correct that you were unfamiliar</p>	<p>Page 22</p> <p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 MR. LERNER: I think we are just going to</p> <p>3 mark these if we can.</p> <p>4 (Document marked Santangelo-3 for</p> <p>5 identification.)</p> <p>6 (Document marked Santangelo-4 for</p> <p>7 identification.)</p> <p>8 BY MR. LERNER:</p> <p>9 Q. Let me just show you what we've marked as</p> <p>10 Santangelo-4 and 5 for identification. With respect to</p> <p>11 Santangelo-4, I understand this to be a photograph of</p> <p>12 the premises at 1037 - 42nd Street that you would have</p> <p>13 taken after the November 2008 fire; is that correct?</p> <p>14 A. That's correct. Unofficial.</p> <p>15 Q. I understand. And with respect to</p> <p>16 Santangelo-5, I understand this to be a photograph that</p> <p>17 you would have taken of the neighboring premises at 1039</p> <p>18 - 42nd Street in Brooklyn after a fire to those</p> <p>19 premises, and again this photo would be unofficial, as</p> <p>20 well, correct?</p> <p>21 A. They were all taken the same day. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. The fire to the 1049 - 42nd Street premises;</p> <p>23 do you know when that happened?</p> <p>24 A. I would have to look. February 26th of '08.</p> <p>25 Q. And did you undertake any investigation</p>
<p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 with what the condition of the house would have been,</p> <p>3 let's say on November 25, 2008, the day before the fire?</p> <p>4 A. Only what I heard. Hearsay.</p> <p>5 Q. Well, tell me what you had heard about the</p> <p>6 condition of the 1037 - 42nd Street premises prior to</p> <p>7 the November 26, 2008 fire?</p> <p>8 A. Well, if I read this fire, and what got us</p> <p>9 there interviewing the people over there and reading the</p> <p>10 fire that just occurred in 2008, it seems that this</p> <p>11 building was opened, vacant, squatters, not secured and</p> <p>12 it seems that both buildings were that way.</p> <p>13 Q. When you say both buildings, you were</p> <p>14 referring to --</p> <p>15 A. There was a building next to it.</p> <p>16 Q. One of your pictures is 1039?</p> <p>17 A. One is 1039, one is 1038, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You mean 1037?</p> <p>19 A. I mean 1037, yes. Now, in this thing it says</p> <p>20 that the -- I'm reading from the incident report marked</p> <p>21 Exhibit-2 -- the fire originated on the third floor</p> <p>22 front room; combustible material, rubbish, fire extended</p> <p>23 to walls, floor, ceiling, entire third floor, extended</p> <p>24 through the roof, extended to the ceiling rafters of the</p> <p>25 second floor. Which is what we can see above here.</p>	<p>Page 23</p> <p>1 B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 yourself of the February 26th fire to the 1039 - 42nd</p> <p>3 Street premises?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you know who the investigating fire</p> <p>6 marshal was for that fire?</p> <p>7 A. Fire Marshal Richard Stevens, who is no</p> <p>8 longer there.</p> <p>9 Q. And since we are on the topic of fire</p> <p>10 marshals, who would have been the investigating fire</p> <p>11 marshal for the November 26, 2008 fire to the 1037 -</p> <p>12 42nd Street premises?</p> <p>13 A. Fire Marshal John Orlando. And just to make</p> <p>14 your reference easy, Job No. 31584 of '08 is the number</p> <p>15 for 1037 - 42nd Street.</p> <p>16 Q. Getting back to the November 06, 2006, fire.</p> <p>17 A. Okay.</p> <p>18 Q. Am I correct that you did not perform a cause</p> <p>19 and origin investigation with respect to this fire?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And am I correct that you would not have</p> <p>22 spoken to any of the witnesses who may have observed the</p> <p>23 fire on that date?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. No? Am I not correct or I am correct?</p>

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1                   B. Santangelo

2       A. No, you're correct, the 2006. I'm sorry.

3       Q. Am I correct that you did not reach,  
4     yourself, any conclusions as to the cause of this fire?

5       A. No.

6       Q. And that would be true of the origin as well,  
7     correct?

8       A. That's correct.

9       Q. And have you reviewed the report that was  
10    prepared by Fire Marshal Farrel in connection with that  
11    fire?

12      A. Yes.

13      Q. And what was the current status of the  
14    investigation of the November 6, 2006 fire?

15      A. At the present time, it is marked closed.

16      Q. And I believe if I read the report correctly  
17    before that the file had been marked closed since  
18    sometime in February of 2007?

19      A. Yes.

20      Q. And with respect to the investigation, do you  
21    know what Fire Marshal Farrel concluded what the cause  
22    of fire was?

23      A. It was an incendiary fire.

24      Q. And just for the purpose of the record what  
25    is an incendiary fire?

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1                   B. Santangelo

2       A. It's a fire that was caused by someone other  
3     than accidental. It's an intentionally started fire.

4       Q. And did Fire Marshal Farrel during the course  
5     of his investigation ever come to a conclusion as to who  
6     was responsible for starting this fire?

7       A. No.

8       Q. Do you know if Fire Marshal Farrel ever spoke  
9     to any witnesses during the course of his investigation  
10    of this fire?

11      A. As I look at the report, yes.

12      Q. And when you investigate a fire, is it custom  
13    and practice as a fire marshal to try to determine who  
14    the first responding firefighter was to the fire?

15      A. You usually like to talk to the first  
16    responding units. The reason for that is because they  
17    are the ones who see where the fire started so you can  
18    gain a lot of information rather than just walking and  
19    wandering around in the building trying to figure out  
20    what happened.

21      Q. So it's important to try to speak with the  
22    fire fighters who had been there first to get  
23    information as to what they observed upon their arrival  
24    at the scene?

25      A. Yes.

1                   B. Santangelo

2       Q. And one of the reasons that it is important  
3     is because you want to know where they observed this  
4     fire coming from, correct?

5       A. Yes.

6       Q. And you want to know if they saw anything  
7     that would help them conclude how the fire started?

8       A. No. All we want them to do is, where did you  
9     fight the fire because a lot of times we get back to the  
10    building, the building will be totally destroyed.

11      Now, sometimes the first two units will arrive,  
12    the fire may have only been in this room and then got  
13    out of this room and went elsewhere because of the  
14    different factors of burning, etc. And so, therefore,  
15    what I will ask you as the officer is where did you see  
16    the fires? Well, when we got in it was in a teapot.  
17    Well, great. Now I know I have to look around there  
18    instead of looking through the whole building.

19      Q. And that's because as the fire grows and  
20    expands and it gets oxygenated, it can reach other parts  
21    of the house, which may not necessarily be where it  
22    started, correct?

23      A. Correct. For every minute that fire goes, it  
24    just keeps picking up momentum.

25      Q. Am I correct that the fire itself can

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2     oftentimes destroy evidence of what may have caused it?

3       A. Yes.

4       Q. And is that another reason why you want to  
5     get an idea of where it may have started, so you can at  
6     least understand where the origin point may be and then  
7     work towards what may have been in that area to the  
8     extent some evidence may not be available?

9       A. Right. But then the fire would be marked either  
10    under investigation for a short period of time,  
11    undetermined, not fully ascertained, and by law we have  
12    to eliminate all accidental causes first. So if we  
13    can't eliminate the accidental, we are not going to go  
14    in incendiary.

15      Q. I didn't want to go through all the causes  
16    with you. I just wanted to ask some questions.

17      A. I just want to explain it so that it is not  
18    left hanging in the air.

19      Q. I appreciate that. In addition to wanting to  
20    know where the fire started from the responding fire  
21    fighters, the first responding fire fighters, do you  
22    also want to try learn from them what the condition of  
23    the premises is upon their arrival regarding whether or  
24    not it was secured?

25      A. Oh, of course.

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

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Q. And why is that important?

A. If the building is locked up, you know we go -- we know that whatever caused it happened inside the building. If it happened in there -- if it was a private home and it has been locked up, well, chances are it very well could be an accident, unless the owner did it, locked the door and left, which occurs. So that was very important.

Q. And what about information about the premises not being secured? What might that tell an investigating fire marshal?

A. It would tell me a few things. I personally would take into consideration is this a vacant building, okay, if it's a vacant building, open and accessible, you know there could be squatters in there. Now, if the building is owned by someone, again remembering correctly -- and I know because we have a building, but insurance law tells me that I have to have this building sealed up and not have squatters, so if I have a vacant building, plus the insurance on a vacant building is much higher than one with a tenant in there, at least a legal tenant.

Q. With respect to the investigation that was conducted here by Fire Marshal Farrel, is it your

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understanding that when he spoke with the responding firefighter, I believe it was Lieutenant Farinacci -- that Lieutenant Farinacci advised him that upon arrival he observed homeless people leaving the premises?

MR. QUINN: Objection to the form.

BY MR. LERNER:

Q. You can answer.

A. I'm going to look at it again and read it because that would be the only way that I know what happened here and that's the only thing I can tell you at the time that he did this, what was actually said.

There was a heavy fire condition on the second floor upon his arrival on the scene. Stated that there was some homeless persons leaving the building upon his arrival. He wanted to stop them but he was too busy with his firefighting duties. He had no further information on the fire.

Q. And do you know whether or not Fire Marshal Farrel was able to confirm that homeless people had been squatting or living at the premises prior to the fire?

A. Again, on the fire report there is a Mrs. Gonzalez that lives -- it doesn't have where she lives but I know that --

Q. I think she is at 1035 42nd Street.

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Q. And in this particular incidence, do you know if Fire Marshal Farrel did that?

A. No.

Q. The fact that the case was marked closed as of February 2007, is that an indication that Fire Marshal Farrel was not able to develop any information or evidence as to a potential suspect for this fire?

A. The case is closed -- recommending that this case be marked closed pending further information.

Q. Okay.

A. What happens is that, especially in that time, there are a lot of jobs out there and there has to be -- you sort of set up a priority. And in this particular case, the first thing vacant, homeless people living in there, okay, that moves down the food chain. Nobody hurt, no firemen hurt, nobody injured, okay that is going to move down the food chain. It has to.

Q. During the course of your experience as a New York City fire marshal have you investigated fires in buildings where homeless people have been squatting?

A. Yes.

Q. And is it your experience that in the winter months homeless people will try to set fires to try to keep themselves warm?

9 (Pages 30 to 33)

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A. Yes.

Q. And in Fire Marshal Farrel's report he notes that, I believe, the electric to the house had been turned off, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And have you, during the course of your experience as an investigating fire marshal, concluded with respect to any of the investigations that you handled that an incendiary fire had been set by homeless people that had been squatting in the residence?

A. Well, that's where we differ, okay, because again, the way I would have run this investigation is the way I run everything. I would have checked to see if this house was insured. If this house was insured, then it would be a whole different ball game.

Q. What would have made it different to you if you had known the house was insured?

A. Because I do what I ended up doing in 2008, running a search on the landlord.

Q. Meaning the owner?

A. The owner.

Q. And with respect to -- we'll get to that in a couple of minutes. I'm just trying to understand -- if I could just back up -- and I don't know if you answered

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me about, me finding homeless people in a vacant building. I'm going to say yes, as I did, and I'm also going to say in one particular incident a firefighter was killed and we found who that person was and he was arrested, not by me, but he was arrested. So if it's vacant it's not that we don't stop looking, it's just that we have to prioritize and do what we have to do first. That's what changes it. If someone is hurt, then you look at homeless.

Q. I appreciate that. So you indicated at the end of 2008 you somehow became involved in the investigation of this and some other fires. Can you just describe for me what the circumstances were surrounding your involvement with the investigation?

A. Yes. It was as I said before, I'm the executive officer. The commanding officer was notified by, I believe the chief fire marshal that somebody was making a complaint to the mayor's office, who I believe to be the people who live in 35, Gonzalez was making a complaint to the mayor's office, and the mayor's office naturally makes everybody go down and start looking at things. He went to a couple of meetings. It was on one occasion that he was not there that they sent me down to go speak to this woman because she just kept making

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my question. With respect to your investigations as an investigating fire marshal, did you ever come to a conclusion during any of your investigations that a fire had been set by squatters who were illegally living in a residence?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, the issue that you talked about looking into the insurance that goes to whether or not somebody had a potential motive to start a fire, correct?

A. Well, that is part of the investigation.

Q. Is it your testimony that if an investigating fire marshal does not investigate that component of a fire, then he has not done what is needed to be done to conclude his investigation of a fire?

A. No. Just so we understand because I think we went off a little bit, my experience is way different than anybody else. I know what I would have done on that particular case. There are certain things you do which I don't know if Mike did. I don't have his notes. I didn't even speak to him about this. I don't know if he did that so therefore I can't really answer. You have to ask him for that. And what he may do and what I may do, we are two different people.

The other thing was the other question you asked

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remarks and they didn't want the fire department to have a bad name.

Q. Who was the woman? Was it Ms. Gonzalez?

A. There was a couple of them that lived in that house. Gonzalez was one of them, Valerie Gray was another -- and I got Valerie Gray living at 1029 - 42nd Street. They ended up living all in the same house. I don't know why. And her husband Richard Gray -- I believe she is an activist in the community and that's what started it all.

Q. So after you had this meeting that arose out of a complaint made to the mayor's office what investigation did you do in connection with the earlier November 2006 fire?

A. Well, I went to the scene. I said I can't do anything without knowing what I'm talking about. I went to the scene -- that's where these beautiful photographs came from -- and I spoke so her and my theory was to just, yes, the fire department is here, tell me what you want us to do, etc., etc.

And I went back and then I did a curiosity trip.

Q. Was that at another date or another time?

A. I would say during the course of a few days.

Q. And during the course of your visit to the

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2 scene, did you ever go inside the 1037 premises?</p> <p>3     A. I was there one day when I spoke to that lady and took these photographs. I never went back to the 5 scene again.</p> <p>6     Q. When you went on the day that you spoke with 7 Ms. Gray and Ms. Gonzalez did you go inside the 8 premises?</p> <p>9     A. No.</p> <p>10    Q. Well, let's talk a little bit about your 11 curiosity trip. What was that all about?</p> <p>12    A. I just sprung into old mode. What that was, 13 let me see, let me see what we got here? Does somebody 14 own this building? And who owns this building? And 15 what else do they own? Had there been any other fires? 16 It just kept going on like that and then I -- which come 17 up with the other pictures and find out these two 18 beautiful buildings were erected after two other 19 buildings that there was a fire in are now these 20 buildings.</p> <p>21    Q. All right. Let me just ask you this 22 question, when you started on your curiosity trip, did 23 you find out who the owner was for the 1037 - 42nd 24 Street premises?</p> <p>25    A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     A. We have 1037, 1039, 1037 again, we have 1021, 3 1025, and 1230. The years all vary.</p> <p>4     Q. 1230. What is the street for 1230? Is that 5 also 42nd?</p> <p>6     A. 42nd.</p> <p>7     Q. And what were the dates of the different 8 fires that you just referenced?</p> <p>9     A. 1037, as we discussed before was in '08.</p> <p>10    MR. QUINN: And '06.</p> <p>11    THE WITNESS: 1039 was in '08.</p> <p>12 BY MR. LERNER:</p> <p>13    Q. I believe you said it was in February of '08, 14 correct?</p> <p>15    A. 1039 was February 26th of '08. 1037 we 16 discussed. 1021 was in '04.</p> <p>17    Q. Do you have the date of that?</p> <p>18    A. That was May 31st of '04.</p> <p>19    Q. 1025?</p> <p>20    A. 1025 had a fire a month later. June 5th of 21 '04.</p> <p>22    Now, 1230 - 42nd Street had a fire December 30th 23 of '03, but I must admit the first name was 24 E-l-i-n-e-l-e-c-h Aber.</p> <p>25    Q. E-l-i-n-e-l-i-c-h?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     Q. And who were the owners?</p> <p>3     A. It's under - I'm sorry if I don't pronounce 4 it right -- but it's Nachum Aber.</p> <p>5     Q. And what investigation, if any, did do you do 6 of Nachum Aber, once you found out who the owner or once 7 you believe you found out who the owner was? What 8 investigation did you do regarding Mr. Aber?</p> <p>9     A. Well, as I said, all I did was a cursory just 10 to see what buildings he owned and if there were any 11 fires in these buildings and who -- you know, what else 12 he owned on the block actually. In other words, it 13 wasn't an official investigation, it was to give me a 14 better picture of what was going on.</p> <p>15    Q. What else did you find out?</p> <p>16    A. That they are the most unlucky people in the 17 world.</p> <p>18    Q. Why do you say that?</p> <p>19    A. Because it seems the four or five buildings 20 they own had fires in them.</p> <p>21    Q. When you say they owned who are you referring 22 to?</p> <p>23    A. I'm referring to Aber.</p> <p>24    Q. And do you know the addresses of those other 25 buildings that they owned that had the fires?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     A. -e-l-e-c-h, Aber. And they have it like 3 that's the last name and Aber is the first. It's 4 probably just a mix up.</p> <p>5     Q. And what about for the two 1037 consecutive 6 fires, are those both identified Nachum?</p> <p>7     A. Mirim Aber.</p> <p>8     Q. For which one?</p> <p>9     A. 1037. All right. 11/26/08, it's Mirim.</p> <p>10    Q. I believe the 11/6/06 we identified 11 previously they had as Nachum.</p> <p>12    A. Mirim is February 26th of '08, which is 1039, 13 and my buddy Nachum is 1037 -- all right, is November of 14 '06; May 31st of '04 was Nachum, and they just got his 15 last name spelled as A-m-b-e-r; June 5th of '04 was 16 Nachum.</p> <p>17    Q. How did they spell his last name on that one?</p> <p>18    A. A-b-e-r. And as I said, 12/3/03 was that big 19 one.</p> <p>20    Q. Did you ever seek to question Mr. Nachum 21 Aber?</p> <p>22    A. Yes.</p> <p>23    Q. And how did you go about doing that?</p> <p>24    A. That same day, they told me he lived at a 25 different address and I said let me just go take a shot</p>

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1 maybe there is a simple thing to this. And I went -- I  
 2 don't even remember the address but I bounced around  
 3 addresses. I found out he has numerous construction  
 4 companies and I believe I ended at I'm going to say 1172  
 5 or 1174 -- and I don't know if it was 41st or 42nd  
 6 Street to be honest with you.

7       Somebody told me that -- I rang the basement.  
 8 They didn't answer. I rang again. A male and a female,  
 9 Hasidic person, and I asked him about him, and he said,  
 10 I believe he said it's my brother-in-law and I left my  
 11 card and I said can you have him call me. And that's  
 12 the extent of it.

13      Q. And did you ever get a call from Mr. Aber?

14      A. No. I believe I was even asking for Mirim in  
 15 all sincerity, but I don't know if that was her standing  
 16 there because they kind of like laughed at me.

17      Q. With respect to the name "Aber," do you know  
 18 if that is a common last name in the Orthodox Jewish  
 19 community?

20      A. Not that I heard of, no.

21      Q. When you went back and looked at these old  
 22 fires and saw that at least with respect to the fires at  
 23 1021 and 1025 that the name on the fire report was  
 24 Nachum, did you do any investigation to try to determine

25      A. I just explained to my boss that there is a  
 26 whole bunch, you know, because he was the one that  
 27 originally went to the meetings. I never attended the  
 28 community meeting.

29      Q. So other than just filling him in on the fact  
 30 that there have been several fires on properties where

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1 whether or not Mr. Aber was an owner of those premises  
 2 at the time of the fire?

3       A. I think I did a LexisNexis. I mean, I have  
 4 LexisNexis.

5       Q. Did your search on LexisNexis uncover  
 6 anything regarding Mr. Aber?

7       A. Just the more properties that they appear to  
 8 own under the Aber name. I'm not sure whose name it was  
 9 under the wife or, you know.

10      Q. Other than concluding that they were the  
 11 unluckiest people alive, did you reach any other  
 12 conclusions with respect to the Abers and these fires  
 13 that you identified?

14      A. No. But I think that it's something that I  
 15 may have to bring insofar as I don't really know what  
 16 was claimed. All I know was that there was a  
 17 foreclosure and the best I knew was there was no money  
 18 being transferred which gives to motive but any of these  
 19 cases that are marked closed can be reopened at any time  
 20 because that's what I did at ATF. As long as there is  
 21 money, it can get handled. It's five to seven years and  
 22 I think five years for the state that from the last  
 23 payment, the case can be reopened and looked into.

24      Q. Has the November 6, 2006, fire been reopened?

25      A. Honestly don't remember. Had to be this  
 26 year.

27      Q. And where did that meeting take place?

28      A. In my office.

29      Q. And how long did you meet with Mr. Quinn?

30      A. An hour maybe, the most. It couldn't have  
 31 been hour.

32      Q. And what did you and Mr. Quinn discuss?

33      A. This particular building and other fires.

34      Q. The other fires that we've talked about  
 35 today?

36      A. Yes.

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

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Q. Did you show Mr. Quinn any documents in connection those other fires in your meeting?

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meeting with Mr. Quinn, you spoke to him on the phone; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And how many times have you and Mr. Quinn spoken?

A. A couple times. I don't know the exact number.

Q. When was the most recent time you spoke to Mr. Quinn?

A. Last week.

Q. And what did you and Mr. Quinn discuss during that conversation?

A. That I called here to let you know I'm going to a funeral. A firefighter passed away and I was doing security and that we changed the date over the phone to the 27th and I'm just giving you a heads up.

Q. I understand when you met with Mr. Quinn, you discussed the different fires that we talked about today. Did you discuss those fire with Mr. Quinn in any of your phone conversations with him?

A. I'm not sure, but I very possibly could have. If I may say so you understand, this entire thing I that did was cursory, that's why I don't have any notes because it wasn't an official investigation or I would

1 B. Santangelo  
2 Q. Did you show Mr. Quinn any documents in connection those other fires in your meeting?  
3 A. I showed him the addresses where it was and we just covered a little bit on the face sheet. But I explained it to him. I could have showed him the entire reports but I didn't know whose side he was on.  
4 Q. With respect to the fire back in May of 2004 to the 1021 - 42nd Street premises, was a cause ever determined?  
5 A. Yes, I believe it was -- well, let me look.  
6 1025 we discussed?  
7 Q. I just asked you the 5/31/04 fire to 1021 - 42nd Street.  
8 A. It was an incendiary fire.  
9 Q. And what about the June 4, 2004 fire to 1024 - 42nd Street?  
10 A. It was an incendiary fire with flammable liquid.  
11 Q. And were any arrests ever made in connection with either of those two fires?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. And with respect to the properties at the time of the fires, were they both vacant?  
14 A. 25 was.

1 B. Santangelo  
2 Q. And what about 21?  
3 A. It's not on the fire report, but the indication the fire extended to wood studs and sheathing within the east wall would indicate the possibility of being vacant, but nowhere on here does it actually say it was vacant.  
4 Q. And were there any witnesses to either of those two fires?  
5 A. I am unable to determine.  
6 Q. Any reference in either of the reports as to any witnesses to those two fires?  
7 A. No. Because they are not showing up for some reason. I have no idea.  
8 Q. And what about the 1230 - 42nd Street fire?  
9 Sorry to make you pull them out again. But what was the cause of that fire?  
10 A. 1230?  
11 Q. The one belonging to the other Aber?  
12 A. 1230. Incendiary fire, flammable liquid.  
13 Q. And what was the status of those premises at the time of the fire, were they occupied or vacant?  
14 A. It's not indicated on the face sheet -- wait a minute -- not indicated on the face sheet.  
15 Q. All right. You indicated, in addition to

1 B. Santangelo  
2 keep notes, keep my contacts with you or that because it didn't mean -- you know, it does mean anything. What I did was just do this so I knew exactly what was happening on the case. So that's why I don't have any notes. I didn't write anything because I, as a supervisor, cannot do an investigation, it's has got to be a marshal. It's a union issue.  
3 Q. As you sit here today, do you have any plans to continue your investigation into these fires?  
4 A. I am going to express this to my boss. I don't know what they want to do, but me personally, what I did was done back then and that's the end of it.  
5 Q. Okay.  
6 MR. LERNER: Off the record.  
7 (Off the record.)  
8 (Brief recess.)  
9 MR. LERNER: At this time Fire Marshal Santangelo, subject to any questions Mr. Quinn may have I have no further questions.  
10 EXAMINATION BY MR. QUINN:  
11 Q. Fire Marshal, it's been established on the record that we have met previously. Any way I'm going to have some questions about both your investigation and some of the procedures of the fire department.



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     A. Yes. She said that the people who owned this 3     owned that.</p> <p>4       Q. And did she also indicate who the owner to 5     1039 was to her knowledge?</p> <p>6     A. She kept referring to the same people.</p> <p>7       Q. Did she know their name?</p> <p>8     A. I don't recall.</p> <p>9       Q. Was she able to direct you -- you indicated 10    that you did go look for Mr. Aber or Mrs. Aber, one of 11    the Abers, on that day; is that correct?</p> <p>12    A. Yes.</p> <p>13    Q. And how was that person identified to you 14    that you knew who to go look for? Or was it because you 15    already had a record of 1020 -- or the 1037 fire?</p> <p>16    A. No. I knew about -- either I did a 17    LexisNexis to find out his address. I don't recall how 18    I had it, but I knew it was the 1100 block. I don't 19    remember if anybody pointed it out. I believe I did 20    like just a little background before I got to the scene 21    so when I did speak to those people to see what their 22    problem was I would be a little bit more intelligent.</p> <p>23    Q. Were you aware, do you remember, before you 24    went out there you already knew they owned other 25    properties on that street?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     A. Who was?</p> <p>3       Q. Yes.</p> <p>4     A. According to the report of February 26th of 5     '08, it was Mirim Aber.</p> <p>6       Q. And that 1037 was also Mirim Aber?</p> <p>7     A. On 11/26 of 2008, 1037 - 42nd Street was 8     Mirim.</p> <p>9       Q. But on November 6th of '06, who was 10    identified as the owner?</p> <p>11    A. Nachum.</p> <p>12    Q. Do you have any knowledge as to why there is 13    a discrepancy as to the two dates of the ownership?</p> <p>14    A. The first names?</p> <p>15    Q. Right.</p> <p>16    A. I have -- no.</p> <p>17    Q. Did you ever determine who the record owners 18    were at the time of the fire at 1021 - 42nd Street?</p> <p>19    A. Yes. According to the fire report dated May 20    31 of 2004, the 1021 - 42nd Street, they have it as 21    Amber Nachum.</p> <p>22    Q. And does it give an address or anything other 23    than the 1021 address?</p> <p>24    A. 1168 - 41st Street.</p> <p>25    Q. Did you ever determine whether or not 1168 -</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     A. I'm not sure.</p> <p>3       Q. Had it been identified to the fire department 4     as a problem that seemed to be related to one owner 5     about this concern that was going on, on the street?</p> <p>6       MR. LERNER: Note my objection. You can 7     answer.</p> <p>8       THE WITNESS: No.</p> <p>9     BY MR. QUINN:</p> <p>10    Q. It was just a general problem that was being 11    described to the department?</p> <p>12    A. Again, it was through the mayor's office 13    because of the tenant -- not the tenant -- the people, 14    Gonzalez, at the prior address that we mentioned seemed 15    to be the only house there. Everything was burned from 16    her left to her right. She had explained to me that she 17    had Allstate Insurance and Allstate was going like why 18    do you keep putting in for fire claims.</p> <p>19    I subpoenaed Allstate to which I only noticed I 20    still have a cover sheet for faxing it to them. I never 21    pursued it but as of this date, I never received it 22    either.</p> <p>23    Q. When you did the search to determine the 24    owners of the properties, you determined who was the 25    record owner for 1039?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1                   B. Santangelo</p> <p>2     41st Street was a property owned by Nachum Aber?</p> <p>3       A. Well, on ten twenty -- on June 5th of 2004 4     for the address 1025 - 42nd Street, the correct reading 5     is Nachum Aber and it shows an address of 1168 - 41st 6     Street in Brooklyn.</p> <p>7       Q. On the fire reports is there any address 8     given for Mirim Aber?</p> <p>9       A. 1039, okay -- February 26th of 2008, it shows 10    address of owner 1039 - 42nd Street, Brooklyn.</p> <p>11    Q. Do you know if that property was, the 1039 12    property at the time of fire on November 26th of '08 was 13    occupied? The 1039 property, was there any indication 14    of whether or not it was occupied at the time of its 15    fire on February 26th of 2008?</p> <p>16    A. No. This is the photograph that I took, 17    Exhibit No. 5.</p> <p>18    Q. Right. That was in December of '08. What I 19    want to know does the record show with respect to the 20    fire in February of '08 whether or not that property was 21    occupied at the time of the fire?</p> <p>22    A. No. Vacant.</p> <p>23    Q. So there is no indication of what her actual 24    residence address was, where she was living at the time 25    of that fire, is there?</p>

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2       A. 1039 - 42nd Street?  
 3       Q. Right.  
 4       A. Dated February 26th, it shows that she is  
 5 living at 1039 - 42nd Street.  
 6       Q. But the record also indicates that the  
 7 property was vacant?  
 8       A. That's correct.  
 9       Q. Have you done any further investigation  
 10 beyond looking at the fire report with respect to the  
 11 fire at 1021 - 42nd Street in May of 2004?  
 12      A. Did I?  
 13      Q. Do any further investigation to determine  
 14 whether or not, for example, that property was insured  
 15 at the time of the fire?  
 16      A. No, I didn't check into any of that.  
 17      Q. Is that true also with respect to the 1025 -  
 18 42nd Street; did you check to determine whether or not  
 19 it was insured?  
 20      A. No, I did not check into that.  
 21      Q. Did you do anything to check to determine who  
 22 the current owners at 1021 - 42nd Street are?  
 23      A. I did a LexisNexis on the people. I would  
 24 have to look to see if it came across.  
 25      Q. Okay.

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2       A. So I honestly can't tell you at this point.  
 3       Q. I guess that's a matter of public record as  
 4 to who owns it.  
 5       A. Yes.  
 6       Q. Did you do any determination of the property,  
 7 what occurred with the transfer of property with respect  
 8 to 1021 after the fire in 2004?  
 9       A. No.  
 10      Q. As a fire marshal, the fact that one -- well,  
 11 a husband and wife who own properties on a street that  
 12 each of the properties, or at least three of the four  
 13 properties suffered fires while the properties were  
 14 vacant, as a fire marshal does that have any  
 15 significance to you?  
 16      MR. LERNER: Object to the form.  
 17      THE WITNESS: To me personally, yes.  
 18 BY MR. QUINN:  
 19      Q. Is that based on your experience as a fire  
 20 marshal?  
 21      A. Yes.  
 22      Q. And how? What does it mean to you?  
 23      A. Because I was involved with, as I said, from  
 24 '97 to 2005, I was involved in a particular case which  
 25 opened up which I learned a lot more and I only wish it

1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 was earlier in my career, so I learned a lot.  
 3       Q. And what you learned, does it affect your  
 4 view of the situation on 42nd Street in Brooklyn as it  
 5 relates to the Abers?  
 6                  MR. LERNER: Note my objection.  
 7                  THE WITNESS: As I said as we sit in this  
 8 room if, in fact, we can, we probably can say, you know,  
 9 I saw fire or I need a fire -- I mean, you know, I've  
 10 seen a fire or I've been to a fire or what have you.  
 11 What gets me as an investigator is that someone that has  
 12 properties specifically on the same block that has fires  
 13 in them caused by, at this present time, unknown people,  
 14 would make me want to wonder and do at a deeper  
 15 investigation as to how this occurred.  
 16      Q. With respect to the fire on November 6, 2006,  
 17 do you know if any determination was made as to whether  
 18 or not the building was secured prior to fire?  
 19      A. In 2006?  
 20      Q. Yes.  
 21      A. The only thing that would indicate to me is  
 22 the interview from Lieutenant Farinacci which states --  
 23 the interview -- heavy fire condition on the second  
 24 floor. He further stated that there was some homeless  
 25 persons leaving the building upon his arrival. He

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 further stated he wanted to stop them but was too busy  
 3 with his firefighting duties. The next thing would be  
 4 to investigative notes written by fire marshal Farrel,  
 5 the subject premises was a vacant private dwelling;  
 6 reports of homeless person staying in the subject  
 7 premises, no electrical in the subject premises.  
 8 Several phone calls to the owner produced no  
 9 information. Recommend this case be closed pending  
 10 further information.  
 11      Q. You've indicated that -- and I may not be  
 12 saying this right -- strike that.  
 13      Is there a manual or anything like that within  
 14 the fire marshal's office that explains the steps that a  
 15 fire marshal should take in investigating a fire?  
 16      A. No, because it's never cut and dry. It  
 17 depends on how they teach you, what you do. I was  
 18 fortunate enough -- a lot of fire marshals work two days  
 19 on and then one night tour. So what happens is then  
 20 they are preliminary front. There's a fire. There's a  
 21 fire in a building or whatever it is. A job ticket  
 22 comes in, they have to go out to the fire, they have to  
 23 decide what the origin and cause was of this fire. Now  
 24 they get back and they have to do the paperwork. Well,  
 25 on your way back stop off at 42nd Street and there is a

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

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1 job there that you have to take care of. We got two  
 2 injured fire fighters. So now the whole ball game goes  
 3 to there. So sometimes the paperwork -- which is what  
 4 my problem is -- might not get in on time. So they have  
 5 to get the paperwork in.

6 So now if something stands out -- which some of  
 7 the major fires that we've had in the City and some of  
 8 the major incidents -- what they will do is give it to  
 9 our special investigations unit, which is composed of  
 10 four or five guys, right now a supervisor, and their job  
 11 is to do major cases.

12 I was fortunate that I worked in SIU in my  
 13 beginning time as a marshal. In 1990 I was put in SIU,  
 14 and that is where I learned different aspects, you know  
 15 different phases, when you have the time to do it. The  
 16 average fire marshal does not have time to go back the  
 17 next day to see what is going on with this fire. So  
 18 therefore, it just sits. They won't come up and they  
 19 won't go, you know, listen, I got this fire that has 76  
 20 fires, you know -- because we do have a problem with  
 21 Brighton Beach and we address every fire now on Brighton  
 22 Beach because of things that were going on to some  
 23 success -- and that's what I mean, unless these things  
 24 were brought out, the spanning of the years and the

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1 being unable to look further, Okay.

2 So when I see a job, if I see one job my  
 3 curiosity was, are there more jobs, and if there are,  
 4 now you just did it to me.

5 Q. You previously identified the fire marshals  
 6 who did the investigations at the 1037 and the 1039  
 7 locations. I guess one of them was Fire Marshal  
 8 Orlando, is he still with the department?

9 A. Yes, he is.

10 Q. And you indicated that Fire Marshal Stevens  
 11 is not.

12 A. Stevens is promoted to a lieutenant. He is  
 13 accessible.

14 Q. So he is still with the fire department?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And how about Fire Marshal Farrel?

17 A. Mike Farrel is in City Wide North, which is  
 18 Queens based.

19 Q. How many sections are there, Just south and  
 20 north?

21 A. Now we have two, yeah. We are two, we have a  
 22 unit in Manhattan on Lafayette, our auto squad is there.  
 23 And at Hooper Street is our special operations. They  
 24 receive the jobs, they give out the job.

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B. Santangelo

1 Q. And then there is north?

2 A. And then there is Queens, north, which covers  
 3 Queens, Bronx and from 110th Street up in Manhattan.  
 4 Q. How about the fire at 1021 - 42nd Street, who  
 5 was the fire marshal on that job?

6 A. That's Dominick Curci, but he is retired.

7 Q. And do you know where he is?

8 A. I'm sorry?

9 Q. Do you know where he lives now?

10 A. I'm not sure if he was from Staten Island or  
 11 Brooklyn. I think he may still be around somewhere.

12 MR. LERNER: Can we just get a spelling for  
 13 the court reporter of the last name?

14 THE WITNESS: First name Dominick. Last name  
 15 C-u-r-c-i.

16 BY MR. LERNER:

17 Q. I'm sure the fire department has a record of  
 18 him because I'm sure he is getting a pension check  
 19 somehow.

20 A. Oh yes. If you go through the league, they  
 21 will find him.

22 Q. And how about the fire at 1025?

23 A. Thomas Boyd. Tommy Boyd works at City Wide  
 24 North.

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B. Santangelo

1 Q. So only Fire Marshal Curci is no longer with  
 2 the department.

3 A. Yes. Dominick retired.

4 Q. So you have five different marshals for five  
 5 different fires; is that correct?

6 A. That's correct. During that period of time,  
 7 yes.

8 Q. And how about the fire at 1230 - 42nd Street?

9 A. That was Daniel Caruso, C-a-r-u-s-o.

10 Q. And how about him, is he still employed?

11 A. As a matter of fact, he just got promoted to  
 12 supervisor and will be reassigned to my office.

13 Q. On the report, the fire incident report that  
 14 has been identified as Santangelo-2, is there any  
 15 indication whether or not the fire marshal was able to  
 16 speak with the owner of the building?

17 A. Looking at Exhibit-2, reading the fire  
 18 marshal's notes, it says, several phone calls to owner  
 19 have produced no information.

20 Q. Do you know if there was a response or just  
 21 no information given?

22 A. No. No. There would be no response.

23 Q. In your experience as a Fire Marshal is that  
 24 unusual that an owner of a property would not respond to

17 (Pages 62 to 65)

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1	B. Santangelo	1	B. Santangelo
2	your calls if they were paying the mortgage and paying	2	Valerie Gonzalez, did you speak with anybody else that
3	the insurance on a building?	3	lived in the area?
4	MR. LERNER: Note my objection.	4	MR. LERNER: Note my objection. I think he
5	THE WITNESS: It's a...	5	said Valerie Gray.
6	BY MR. QUINN:	6	MR. QUINN: I'm sorry. Valerie Gray.
7	Q. And they were not respond to the inquiries	7	THE WITNESS: It was Mrs. Gonzalez. There
8	from the fire marshal?	8	was three people.
9	A. We are all aware that it stipulates in your	9	MR. LERNER: Richard Gray and Valerie Gray
10	insurance papers that you have to cooperate with the law	10	and you said Mrs. Gonzalez.
11	enforcement on any investigation to any fire. I believe	11	THE WITNESS: Right. There were three people
12	that's the first page of the document that most of us	12	living in there. They were community activists and I
13	don't read.	13	was trying to pacify them in one breath.
14	Q. Do you understand that most people do respond	14	BY MR. QUINN:
15	to your request to contact you if they are insured and	15	Q. Okay. So they all spoke with you about this?
16	paying the mortgage?	16	A. Yes.
17	MR. LERNER: Note my objection.	17	Q. Anybody else in the neighborhood that spoke
18	THE WITNESS: Eventually, if they are paying.	18	to you about this?
19	If we do percentages, I would say yes, because they are	19	A. I don't believe I went past that because that
20	aware. Because the process that they go through is the	20	was my goal.
21	adjuster, is the people that investigate that are sent	21	Q. Can you describe at all, you said you went to
22	out by the insurance company, they are going to confirm	22	the property on 41st Street to try to locate the Abers,
23	with us, we are going to confirm with them, and they are	23	Mrs. Aber, could you described the people you saw there?
24	going talk to us because that's what they have to do.	24	A. In the basement?
25	Q. Is there any reference on this report to any	25	Q. Right.
	Page 67		Page 69
1	B. Santangelo	1	B. Santangelo
2	adjusters or people retained by the owner contacted the	2	A. Again, I'm wasn't sure it was 41st Street, I
3	department about this job?	3	believe it was 41st Street. And I believe the way I
4	A. No.	4	found it was there was a sign, some construction company
5	Q. Is it usual or often that adjusters, public	5	that turned into another construction company. I went
6	adjusters, retained by owners contact the fire	6	there.
7	department about a job?	7	Describe it. To the best of my recollection,
8	MR. LERNER: Note my objection.	8	they opened it up -- they were standing, I believe they
9	THE WITNESS: What happens is this, it's not	9	were standing down and I was standing up, you know what
10	so much the adjusters as the insurance company. The	10	I mean, a high step, I think. The woman seemed to be a
11	insurance company will have their cause and origin guy	11	naturally Hassidic woman with the wig, she had a
12	go out and their cause and origin guy will contact us	12	long-haired wig. She appeared to be short, I don't know
13	because by law -- it's the same law within the Arson	13	how tall -- how do I say this without getting in
14	Unity Act. We can confer with each other because it's	14	trouble? She wasn't heavyset, but she was full-boned --
15	the same goal and as long as the information data shared	15	am I saying that right? I'm going to get in trouble.
16	is truthful, there is not a problem. So nobody is held	16	Q. How about the gentleman? Were you able to
17	liable.	17	tell age?
18	So with that, usually what happens is they will	18	A. No. He was Hasidic with black hair and a
19	call us and they say who is working on the case, and we	19	beard. They are very jolly people. He just kept
20	will say somebody is working on it, what do you got?	20	laughing while I kept talking.
21	Well, I got five million dollars, this guy has five	21	Q. Did you tell them why you were there?
22	million dollars. Okay, this is what we got. Let's	22	A. Yes, I said I'm a -- because I would always
23	meet. Let's do it. The case would not have been	23	do that because, if you know what I mean, I needed to
24	closed.	24	talk to these people and I didn't want to scare them
25	Q. You testified that you spoke with this	25	off -- I said I'm a fire marshal and I'm here, I'm

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1 looking for Mr. Aber and all that. I think he said to  
 2 me that was his sister or something along those lines,  
 3 which I tend not to believe any way. I said here's my  
 4 card. Please have him call me.

5 Q. Did you ever tell him that you were on 42nd  
 6 Street?

7 A. I don't think I got into the whole thing. I  
 8 think I said I was investigating a fire on whatever that  
 9 address was, that I was looking into it and I knew he  
 10 was the owner, otherwise I won't have been there. I had  
 11 no reason to be at this guy's house.

12 And, again, there was no notes and no further  
 13 pursuing of it because at that point I didn't think  
 14 there was going to be anything done with it and there  
 15 wasn't money and I just mentioned to my boss that it  
 16 wasn't going to go anywhere at that time.

17 Q. With respect to the fire in November of '08  
 18 at the 1037 address, where did the damage in that fire  
 19 occur?

20 MR. LERNER: I'm just going to object to the  
 21 form of the question.

22 THE WITNESS: I'm reading off the face sheet:  
 23 "Fire originated at subject premises on the first floor  
 24 on the exterior front porch adjacent to the east brick

25 A. Well, according to what I got out of  
 LexisNexis, it shows that Nachum Aber owns it.

Q. Does it indicate what the date of that record  
 is, not the date you got it, but the date that it's

reporting that Nachum Aber owned the property?

A. Again, it just says, Deed record standardized

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1 porch rail approximately two feet from the north wall at  
 2 the floor level in combustible material clothes and  
 3 cardboard. Fire extended to the front porch walls,  
 4 ceiling, and contents, further extended to the second  
 5 floor front and exterior where it was confined and  
 6 extinguished."

7 Q. When you were at the scene that day, did you  
 8 walk around the building at 1037?

9 A. I didn't go in the back but I went down the  
 10 alley just to look at the electric.

11 Q. Was there any indication whether or not the  
 12 electric was operating?

13 A. No, the electric was off.

14 Q. Did you observe at all whether or not the  
 15 windows in the building were boarded up?

16 A. I don't recall.

17 Q. There is mention of Robert Wing. Who is  
 18 Robert Wing, do you know?

19 A. Robert Wing?

20 Q. Are you familiar with his name at all?

21 A. No. He may have just been a firefighter.

22 Q. It appears he was just a firefighter not

23 somebody in your department.

24 Other than the steps you've taken after you were

25 address 1168 41st Street, and then it says Property  
 information, and then 1021 - 42nd Street, Brooklyn,  
 duplex, triplex, quad-plex, which described that.

Q. Described the building?

A. Sure. Triplex, duplex, all those other fancy  
 terminologies got to be this big building because the  
 other ones were just one families. And it says the  
 recording date was May 18, 2004, contract date was  
 December 26th of '03.

Q. Did you make a similar determination with  
 respect -- well, 1025, you have already indicated what  
 the fire department record showed.

A. And 1025 was also owned since 2003 according  
 to the recording data on this thing.

Q. With respect to the what is reported on the  
 fire incident report, which is Santangelo-2, from that,  
 were there any New York Department fire department code  
 regulations or City regulations to your knowledge that  
 from the information contained in there were violated by  
 the owners of that property at the time?

MR. LERNER: Note my objection.

THE WITNESS: I won't know from that. It's  
 very possible it's in that fire incident report, that  
 other report -- sometimes they put it in there.

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## B. Santangelo

1 No, looking through here I have no indication  
 2 that any summons, violations, or anything were given.

3 Q. To your knowledge, is the owner of a building  
 4 required to secure a building to prevent access -- in  
 5 other words, a vacant building, required to secure the  
 6 building.

7 MR. LERNER: Under what? Under a code or  
 8 law?

9 BY MR. QUINN:

10 Q. Under his knowledge of New York law is the  
 11 owner of a vacant building required to secure the  
 12 building?

13 MR. LERNER: Note my objection. You can  
 14 answer.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. And I did that at  
 16 Brighton Beach. I demanded that he boarded up the  
 17 building?

18 Q. Pre-fire or post-fire?

19 A. They had a fire -- we were having a lot of  
 20 fires there and one of deals were we found out he was  
 21 trying to get the buildings by letting homeless live in  
 22 there and burn the building so that the City would come  
 23 along and knock the building down because he was having  
 24 problems selling the building.

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1 So I kind of explained to him that this building  
 2 has to be boarded. And then we pursued it that way to  
 3 which he boarded it up. I went back on two occasions to  
 4 make sure the building was boarded.

5 Q. Was that before or after a fire?

6 A. It was after the fire.

7 Q. How about before a fire? Is the owner of a  
 8 vacant building required to secure the building?

9 MR. LERNER: Note my objection.

10 THE WITNESS: I don't know the law, but I  
 11 would imagine that the insurance -- I would imagine, my  
 12 opinion that the insurance company, if you insure a  
 13 building, you are not going to leave it open.

14 BY MR. QUINN:

15 Q. I'm talking about the law, not necessary what  
 16 is reported by the insurance company.

17 MR. LERNER: Note my objection.

18 THE WITNESS: I don't know the law, but I  
 19 would believe there is.

20 BY MR. QUINN:

21 Q. But after a fire, is it a requirement to  
 22 board up a building?

23 A. It's almost spontaneous because the insurance  
 24 company sends down a boarder, he boards it up and that's

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1 pretty much the end of it. That's what we normally see.

2 Q. When did you first become aware that the  
 3 property at 1037 was, in fact, an insured building?  
 4 A. I think on one of our conversations, I think.  
 5 Q. And did you ever make a demonstration whether  
 6 any of the other buildings were insured at the time of  
 7 their fires?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you ever become aware that the property  
 10 at 1037 is subject to a foreclosure action?

11 A. I did but I forgot where I learned that. I  
 12 don't know if I learned that on something I pulled. I'm  
 13 not sure where I believe -- where I learned it. I heard  
 14 it.

15 I want to make a correction on something that I  
 16 said. I believe I said I first learned it from you  
 17 about the insurance of this. I don't think it was you  
 18 because I see I have, I have something here and I don't  
 19 know if I spoke to a Mr. Gross prior to speaking to you.  
 20 I'm pretty sure I did. And I believe that's where I got  
 21 some of the information from.

22 Q. Has anyone at the mortgage company claiming  
 23 that they held the mortgage to the property contacted  
 24 you at any time?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. Have you ever been contacted by any other  
 3 insurance company regarding the Abers?

4 A. No.

5 Q. By the way, you mentioned your commanding  
 6 officer. What is his name?

7 A. Randal Wilson.

8 Q. And he is the commanding officer of the --  
 9 A. Yes. He is the commanding officer of City

10 Wide South.

11 Q. In conducting an investigation, do you  
 12 consider the financial affairs of the owners of a  
 13 building as you analyze the fire losses?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And in what way or what is the significance  
 16 of the financial affairs to you in conducting such an  
 17 investigation?

18 A. Well, the quite obvious is, did they have the  
 19 money to pay the mortgage? Are they paying the  
 20 mortgage? Because it's easier to light the house up and  
 21 get -- you know, it's the same as a car. You know,  
 22 today people with the SUVs, they get two gallons per  
 23 mile. Well, they are not going to trade it in, they are  
 24 going to get 35 hundred bucks versus having a fire and

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 fire theft on a car. And that happens.  
 3                   Q. Do you know anything about the financial  
 4 conditions -- affairs of the Abers?  
 5                   A. No.  
 6                   Q. Do you know Malik Aber?  
 7                   A. No, I don't know any of those people  
 8 personally.  
 9                   Q. So you never spoke to Malik Aber to your  
 10 knowledge?  
 11                  A. No.  
 12                  Q. Other than maybe he was that person that you  
 13 referred to before?  
 14                  MR. LERNER: Note my objection.  
 15                  THE WITNESS: I won't know. I won't know any  
 16 of them.  
 17                  BY MR. QUINN:  
 18                  Q. Have you learned that the properties at 1037  
 19 and 1039 - 42nd Street have been demolished?  
 20                  A. Yes.  
 21                  Q. Do you know if the fire department had any  
 22 involvement in the decision to demolish the buildings?  
 23                  A. I don't know.  
 24                  Q. Does the fire department from time to time  
 25 get involved in determinations as to whether a building

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 learned it from, but those exact words that I remember  
 3 hearing.  
 4                   Q. Did you learn at what point foreclosure  
 5 actually was started; and by that I mean, do you know if  
 6 it was started prior to the November 6, 2006, fire?  
 7                  A. No.  
 8                  Q. And you mentioned Mr. Gross. Who is  
 9 Mr. Gross?  
 10                 A. Mr. Gross -- I can't remember how I got in  
 11 touch with him -- Mr. Gross works with Insurance  
 12 Solutions in Staten Island.  
 13                 Q. And who is Insurance Solutions?  
 14                 A. I don't know. They may be the insurance  
 15 company for all I know. I don't remember how I even got  
 16 hooked up to that guy Keith Gross. He may be -- he may  
 17 be like a Mike Russo -- I don't know. I never heard of  
 18 this guy before.  
 19                 Q. He may be a cause and origin investigator?  
 20                 A. Maybe. I don't know.  
 21                 Q. Do you recall what you discussed with Ms.  
 22 Gross?  
 23                 A. Yeah. What do you know about this thing?  
 24                 Q. And how long did you speak to him for?  
 25                 A. I don't know.

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 should be demolished?  
 3                  A. No. It's the buildings department.  
 4                  Q. Do they consult with you at all or do they  
 5 just make at a decision themselves?  
 6                  A. I've never been consulted. There is a  
 7 process -- if a building gets -- if they demolish a  
 8 building because it is an unsafe condition and the owner  
 9 doesn't do it, they will do it and I believe they charge  
 10 them three times more the amount to demolish it, if you  
 11 can find the owner, I believe that's the way it works.  
 12                 Q. Do you know anything about the demolition of  
 13 those two buildings?  
 14                 A. No.  
 15                 MR. QUINN: I believe that's all I have.  
 16 Thank you very much.  
 17                 BY MR. LERNER:  
 18                 Q. Fire Marshal, just a couple more follow-up  
 19 questions for you. I believe you indicated that you had  
 20 learned at some point that there was a foreclosure  
 21 action started against the 1037 premises; is that  
 22 correct?  
 23                 A. I heard. What I heard was the people who  
 24 owned that building are in foreclosure and they have no  
 25 insurance. Okay. Exactly, I really don't recall who I

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 Q. When did you speak with him?  
 3                 A. I can only tell you that it was before April  
 4 11 -- no, I shouldn't even say that. I don't know when  
 5 I spoke to Mr. Gross.  
 6                 Q. And you have no notes about your discussion  
 7 with him, correct?  
 8                 A. That's correct.  
 9                 Q. Now, previously you indicated that it's your  
 10 belief that insurance policies contain provisions  
 11 requiring the insured to cooperate with police and the  
 12 fire department; do you recall that?  
 13                 A. With investigations, yes.  
 14                 Q. And that's just based on your belief,  
 15 correct, not based on any personal knowledge that you  
 16 have?  
 17                 A. I believe it's in the insurance policy.  
 18 Where exactly -- I remember them showing it to me a  
 19 hundred years ago, but I just can't tell you what page.  
 20 But I believe it is still there.  
 21                 Q. But again, it's based on your belief as to  
 22 what you may have learned years ago as opposed to what  
 23 actually exists within the policy that maybe issued in  
 24 this particular incidence, correct?  
 25                 A. Oh, I don't know anything about this

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 incidence. I'm talking about general fire that I am  
 3 aware of which I used for the longest time. I've had  
 4 Chinese people speak to me after they found out I called  
 5 their company and said they are not cooperating so they  
 6 are talking either a blitz language in five minutes or --  
 7 -- so no matter what the property was, commercial or --  
 8 when I was deeply involved with except for one incident.

9           Q. And with respect to this particular  
 10 investigation of the November 6, 2006 fire, is there any  
 11 reference in the fire marshal's file report of any  
 12 contact made with him by the insurance company?

13          A. No. I believe I looked through that. There  
 14 is no indication.

15          Q. All right. And with respect to the addresses  
 16 that we see. For instance in -- withdrawn.

17          With respect to the identity of the owner that we  
 18 see in this report and in the other reports that you  
 19 looked at, where does that information come from?

20         A. It would probably -- because I don't  
 21 know 2006 -- it would probably come from the financial  
 22 records or the buildings records.

23         Q. And who is responsible for obtaining that?  
 24 Is that something that the fire marshal does? Is that  
 25 something that the administrative people do?

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 is vacant buildings are burning down, foreclosures are  
 3 happening, so there is a particular area that this is  
 4 going on in. I'm trying to be vague without --

5           Q. I understand.

6           A. So what happened is in this particular  
 7 incident that I got involved with again was that there  
 8 was a fire. And then there was another fire like a  
 9 couple of days apart. And the boss wasn't in so they  
 10 sent me down there with a team. And I went down and  
 11 there I learned that there were multiple family houses  
 12 used as SROs and there were fires --

13          Q. SRO?

14          A. Single room occupies. What was a  
 15 three-family was now a sixteen-family or a  
 16 sixteen-person room. So what had happened was he was --  
 17 he had a fire and the last house left, he just kept  
 18 moving the people. He would throw people out and move  
 19 them into the last one.

20          I got word from the street that his intention was  
 21 to get these buildings down because there was something  
 22 going on, there was an ordinance that was going to be  
 23 passed within a certain amount of time, and in order for  
 24 him -- he had to have the buildings demolished by this  
 25 time, otherwise he can't build what he wants to build,

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1                   B. Santangelo

2          A. It would be -- the fire marshal would contact  
 3 Hooper Street, okay, and say, look, give me -- we want  
 4 to know who owns this building or they'll go on the  
 5 computer to finance -- now today, we can all go onto the  
 6 building or financial department and find out who owns  
 7 what or run a LexisNexis.

8           MR. LERNER: Thank you, Fire Marshal  
 9 Santangelo. I have no other questions.

10 BY MR. QUINN:

11         Q. By the way, you talked about this Brighton  
 12 Beach investigation, is that the Schlesinger case or is  
 13 that another matter?

14         A. No.

15         Q. You testified that there was a situation in  
 16 which a fellow was allowing homeless people to reside in  
 17 the building?

18         A. Yeah.

19         Q. When I say "allowing," you determined that it  
 20 was his intent was to have the homeless people cause a  
 21 fire in the building?

22         A. Well, a lot of that is still going on under  
 23 investigation. But hypothetically speaking, what the  
 24 problem is that the gentleman purchased -- we are having  
 25 a lot of problems in Brighton Beach. What is happening

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1                   B. Santangelo  
 2 which was built on the next block.

3           So I went down there and asked them to get the  
 4 owner. The owner came, everybody came, the investor,  
 5 and this and that. And I said what is your plans here,  
 6 and basically he said, somebody is interested in it. I  
 7 said, well are you going to board this up? And he goes,  
 8 well, now we have the damages. I said no, we were going  
 9 to board this up. What is your intention? And we went  
 10 on and on.

11         And I just informed him that you have an SFO, you  
 12 have these people living here, you have firemen respond  
 13 here, and I believe that you should board this up  
 14 because should a fireman get hurt, should a civilian get  
 15 hurt, we are going to have major problems. So just to  
 16 help everybody out. So I stood there and he had  
 17 something with his insurance company because they called  
 18 me. And I verified to them, I said I was there and that  
 19 building is boarded up. And, you know, that was all I  
 20 wanted him to do.

21         He also give us permission and authority that if  
 22 anybody entered his building we can arrest him. We gave  
 23 that to the local police and on occasion somebody would  
 24 take a ride -- if they were in the area, of course --  
 25 and go in there. If somebody was in there or it was

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## C E R T I F I C A T I O N

S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K )

: ss:

C O U N T Y O F N E W Y O R K )

I, TONIANN MCCULLOUGH, a Notary Public  
for and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:  
That the witness whose examination is  
hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and that such  
examination is a true record of the testimony given by  
that witness.

I further certify that I am not related  
to any of the parties to this action by blood or by  
marriage and that I am in no way interested in the  
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand this 27th day of August, 2009.

ToniAnn McCullough,  
Professional Court Reporter  
and New York State Notary

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## I N D E X

## E R R A T A S H E E T

DEPOSITION OF: BERNARD SANTANGELO  
RE: MIRIAM ABER VS. AMERICAN SECURITY INSURANCE  
COMPANY

TAKEN: AUGUST 27, 2009

PAGE LINE CORRECTION REASON

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BERNARD SANTANGELO

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

NOTARY PUBLIC

23 (Pages 86 to 89)